

Fig.1. Mean precipitation (P) for July-September (JAS) averaged from 1990-2000 from the URD (a). Contour interval is 1 mm day^{-1} . Zero contours are omitted. Contours for 0.5 and 1.5 mm day^{-1} are added. Areas where P is larger than 3 (4) mm day^{-1} are shaded light (dark). (b) same as (a) but for the AMIP126, (c) same as (a) but the SIMU126, (d) Surface temperature from the COOP network averaged from 1990-2000. Contour interval is 3°C . Values greater than 24 (27) $^{\circ} \text{C}$ are shaded dark (light), (e) same as (d) but for AMIP126, and (f) same as (c) but for the SIMU126.

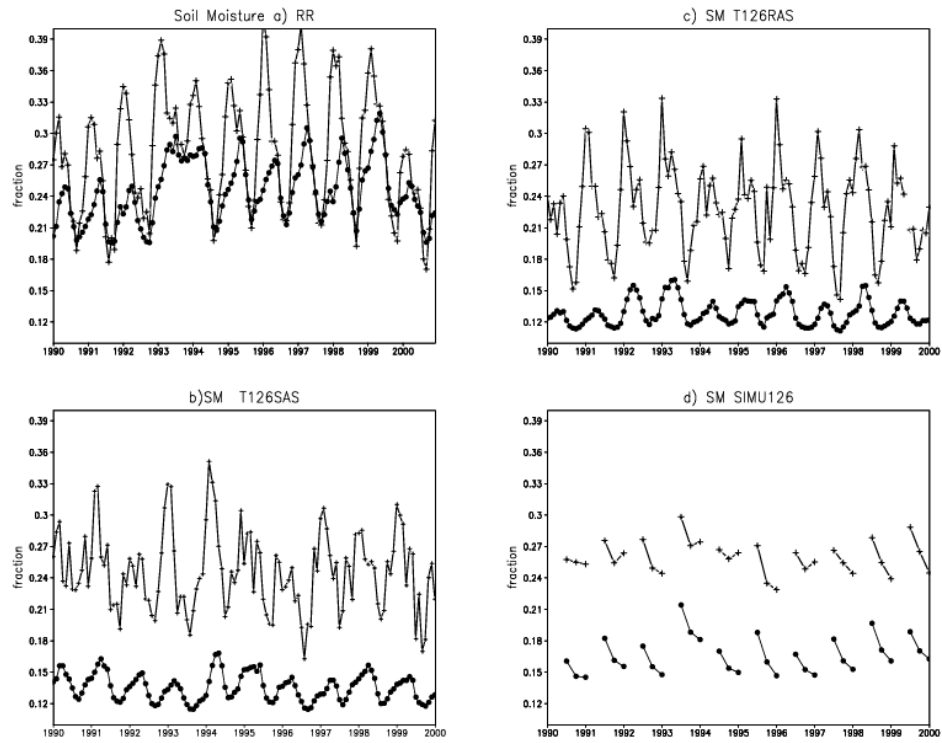


Fig. 2. Monthly mean volumetric soil moisture at the top 10cm (crosses) and at the second layer (10-200cm) (dark circles) averaged over the northern Plains (36-48 ° N, 90-100 ° W) from January 1990 to December 2000 for (a) the RR, (b) AMIP126SAS, (c) AMIP126RAS and SIMU126 ensemble mean.